

CLAIMS

1. An image input apparatus which includes a detection section to detect radiographic image from a recording member having radiographic image information recorded thereon, and reads the detected radiographic image, the image input apparatus comprising:

a creation section to create a plurality of correction values for correction of unevenness on the image or radiography sensitivity, in which the plurality of correction values correspond to a plurality of detection regions;

a storage section to store the created plurality of correction values; and

a selecting section to select an optimal correction value upon image reading,

wherein the optimal correction value is used for the image reading.

2. The image input apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of correction values are created for each of a plurality of correction coefficients, and stored in the storage section.

3. The image input apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein, concerning the correction of unevenness on the image, among the correction values created to correspond to the plurality of detection regions, a relevant correction value

is used for correction of an image of a detection region not larger than a predetermined region.

4. The image input apparatus of claim 3, further having a function to un-select a correction value of a region not
5 larger than the predetermined region, and search for a different correction value, among the created correction values, when an image of a detection region not smaller than the predetermined region is inputted upon the image reading.

10 5. The image input apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising another storage section to separately store an unconditionally-used correction value used when the optimal correction value does not exist.

6. The image input apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 5,
15 wherein, in the correction of unevenness on the image, when an image having a region not smaller than the detection regions required to create the plurality of correction values is detected, the same correction value as a correction value on left-right/upper-lower boundaries is
20 expanded in left-right/upper-lower directions outside the detection region.

7. The image input apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein a correction value of a region to be used is created beforehand and stored in the storage section, and
25 correction is performed by using the correction value, on images having a plurality of regions.

8. The image input apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the storage section records image information, stores a plurality of version data containing information about the recording member from which the image recorded thereon is detected by the detection section, and stores each of the correction values corresponding to the version data, and the selecting section selects the optimal correction value based on relevant version data.

9. The image input apparatus of claim 8, wherein, when the relevant version data does not exist, a correction value selected based on adjacent version data is used for the image reading.

10. The image input apparatus of claim 9, wherein, when the relevant version data does not exist, a correction value selected based on adjacent obsolete version data is used for the image reading.

11. The image input apparatus of claim 9 or 10, further comprising another storage section to separately store an unconditionally-used correction value used when the correction values do not exist or a correction value corresponding to the relevant version data does not exist adjacently, wherein, when the relevant version data does not exist, the unconditionally-used correction value is used for the image reading.

12. The image input apparatus of claim 5 or 11, further having a function to warn that the unconditionally-used

correction value is used, when the relevant correction value does not exist and the unconditionally-used correction value is used.

13. The image input apparatus of claim 2 or 8, further
5 comprising an erasing section to first erase an obsolete correction value, when the storage section to store the plurality of correction values reaches the limit thereof or the number of correction values to be stored is limited.

14. The image input apparatus of claim 13, wherein the
10 erasing section does not erase the unconditionally-used correction value.

15. The image input apparatus of any one of claims 2, 3, 4, 7 and 10, further having a function to perform selection according to a condition which is provided beforehand or
15 provided upon the image reading through a network or by an information input device, to select the optimal correction value.

16. The image input apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the apparatus includes, as the plurality of
20 correction values, a part of or all of version data, a detection region, an image sampling pitch, a time difference between reading speeds of each of main-scanning/sub-scanning, and data on an X-ray tube used.

17. The image input apparatus of claim 16, wherein the
25 apparatus stores, in the storage section, based on the version data as a key, the part of or the all of the region

information, image sampling pitch, time difference between reading speeds of each of main-scanning/sub-scanning, and data on an X-ray tube used, and uses the version data as a search key upon correction value selection decision.

- 5 18. The image input apparatus of claim 17, wherein the apparatus includes an unevenness correction value corresponding to an image area, stores a plurality of correction values for each of X-ray tubes to be used, and selects a corresponding correction value therefrom when a
- 10 relevant X-ray tube is used.
19. The image input apparatus of any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the apparatus receives information on a relevant X-ray tube through a network.